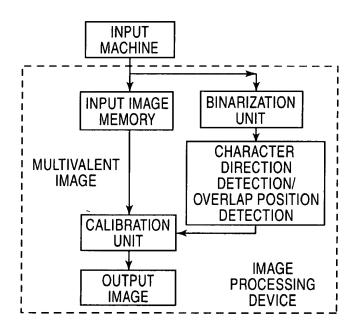
Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs 1 and 8. That is, Fig. 1 has been amended to include the subtitle for element (2) image processing device and Fig. 8 has been amended to correctly recite "Case of white/black-permuted." In addition, replacements sheets are included for all Figs. 1-29, in which all of the elements in the drawings are now in referenced in English.



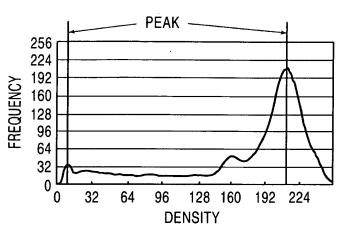
Fig.1



`

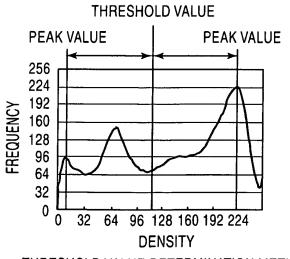


Fig.2



CASE WHERE TWO PEAKS HAVE ARISEN ON A HISTOGRAM

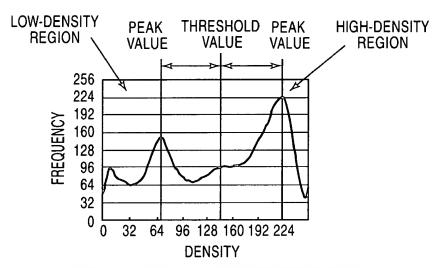
Fig.3



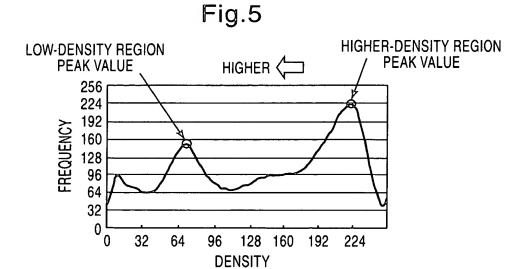
THRESHOLD VALUE DETERMINATION METHOD 1



Fig.4



THRESHOLD VALUE DETERMINATION METHOD 2



PEAK VALUE DETECTION (HIGHER PEAK VALUE IN THE HIGH-DENSITY REGION)



Fig.6

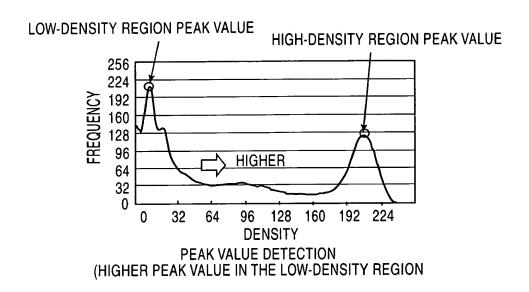


Fig.7

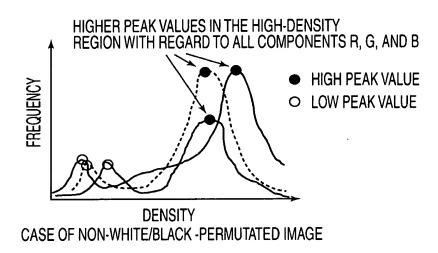




Fig.8

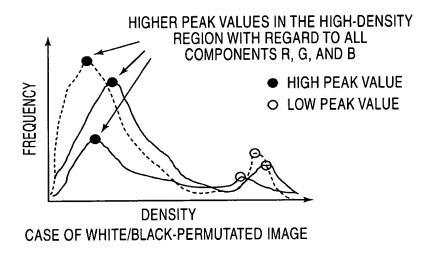
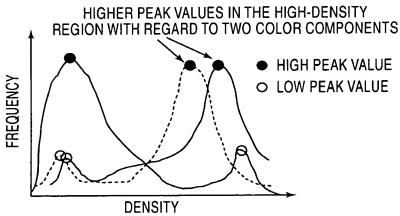


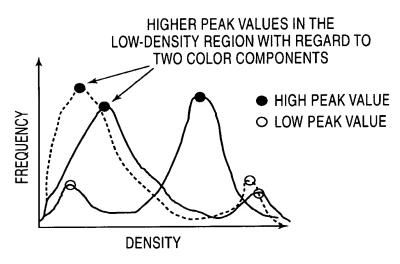
Fig.9



PREPARATION OF BINARY IMAGE FROM TWO COLOR COMPONENTS (WHITE/BLACK PERMUTATION ABSENT)



Fig.10



PREPARATION OF BINARY IMAGE FROM TWO COLOR COMPONENTS (WHITE/BLACK PERMUTATION PRESENT)



Fig.11

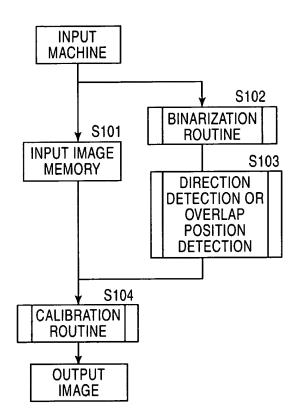




Fig.12

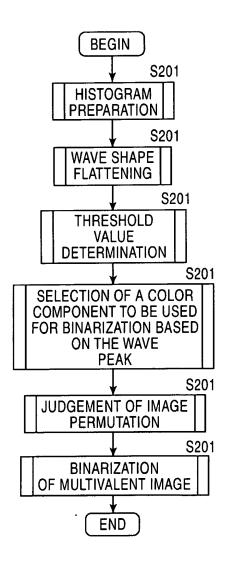




Fig.13

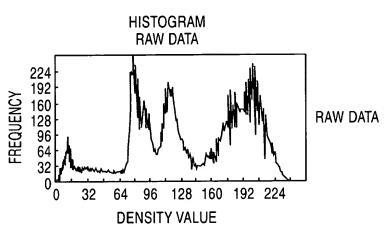


Fig.14

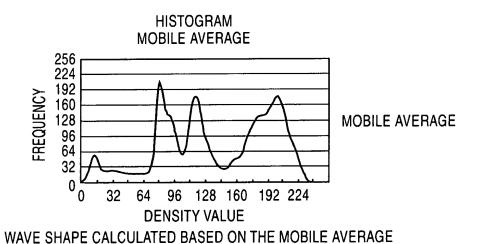
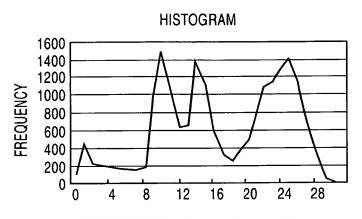




Fig.15



DENSITY (256th TONE -> 32nd TONE)

HISTOGRAM PREPARED FROM A TONE-DOWNGRADED IMAGE



Fig.16

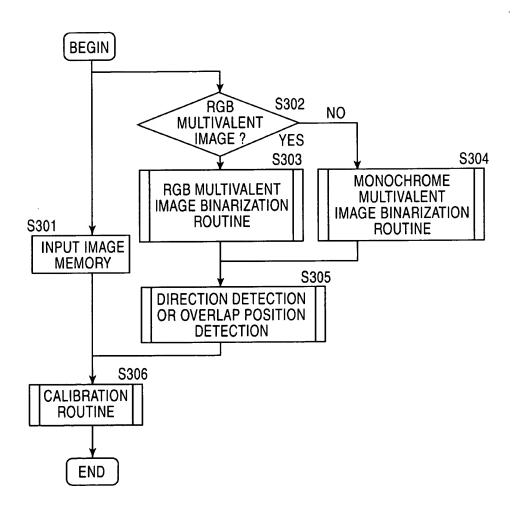




Fig.17

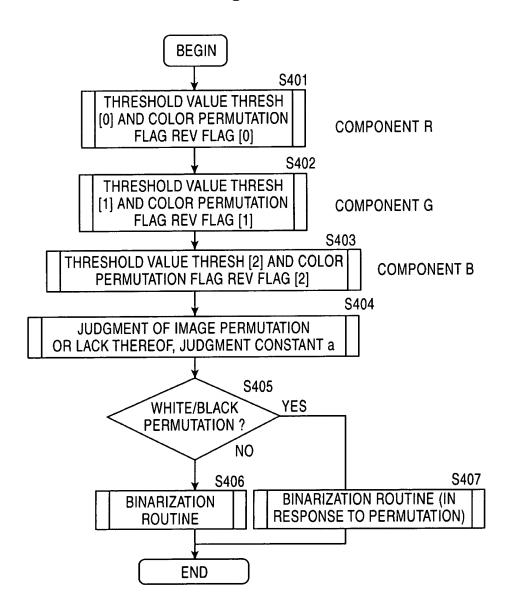




Fig. 18

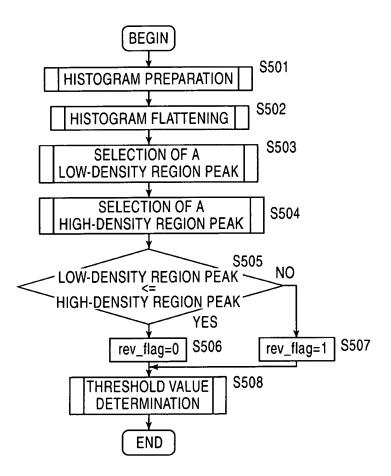




Fig.19

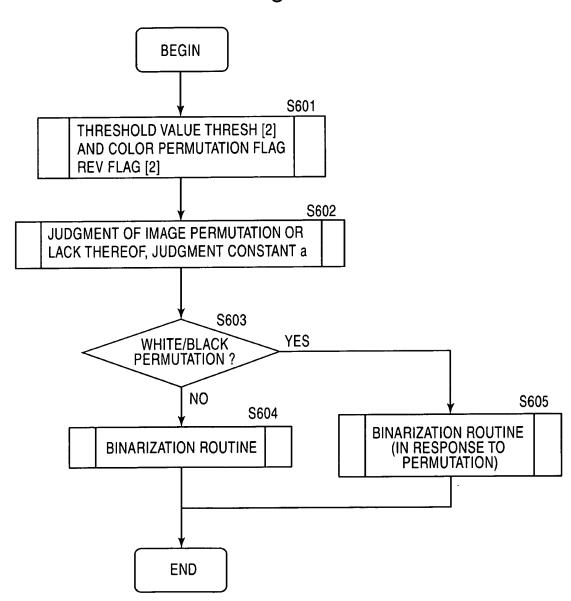




Fig.20

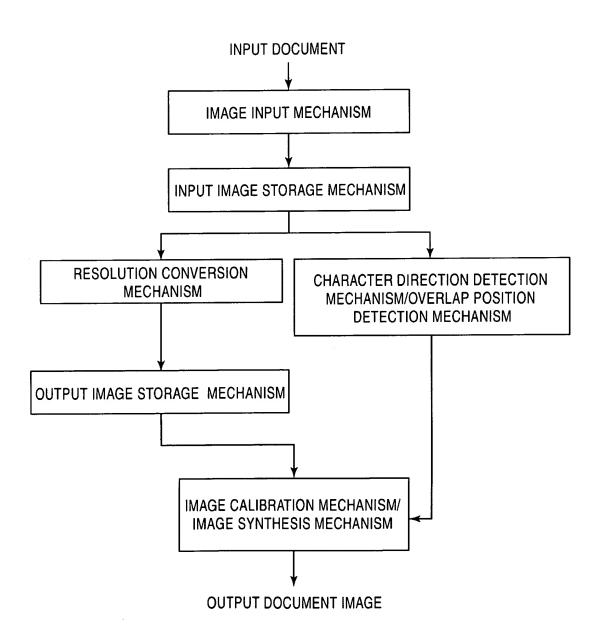




Fig.21

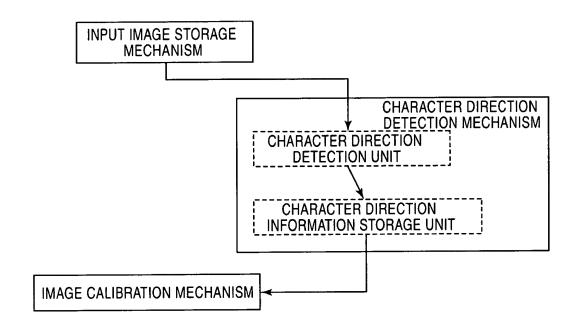




Fig.22

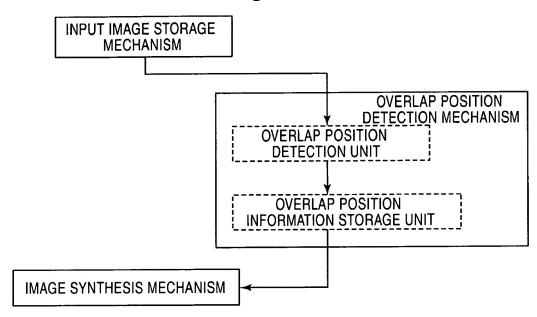


Fig.23

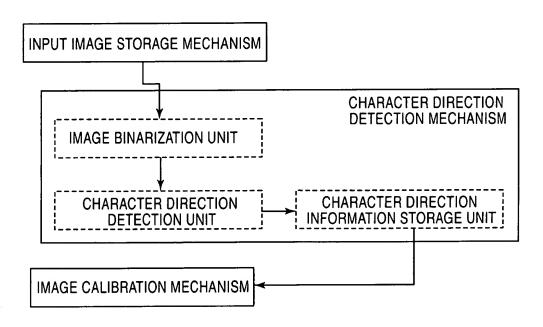




Fig.24

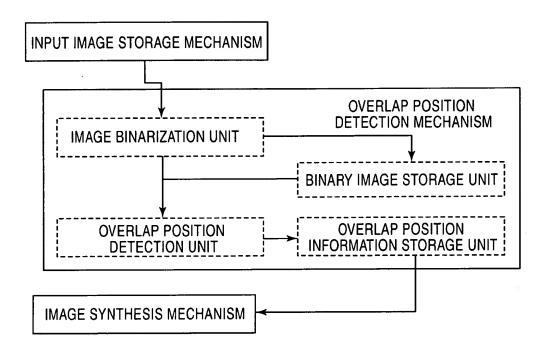




Fig.25

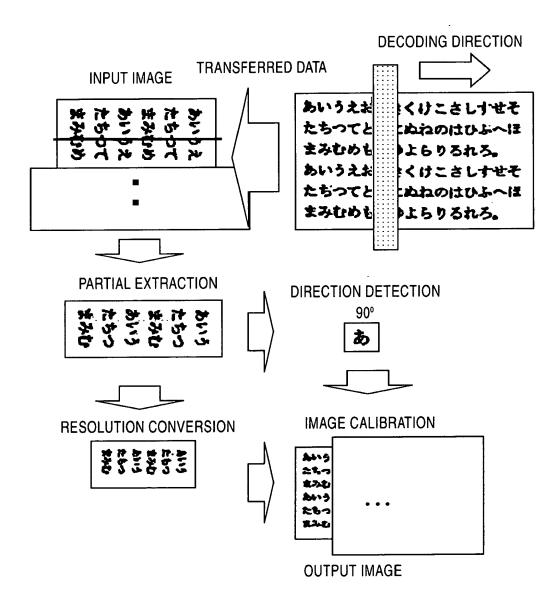
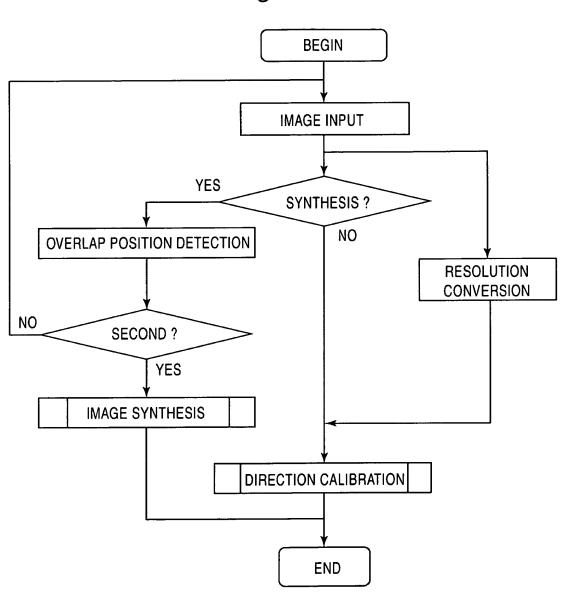




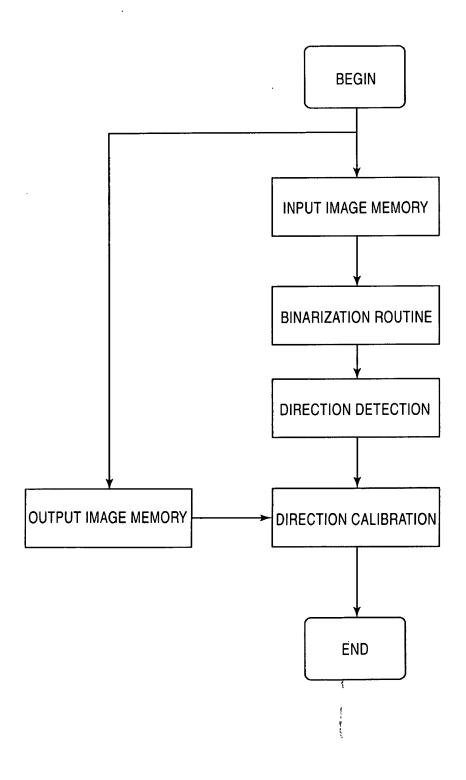
Fig.26



ST. ST.



Fig.27





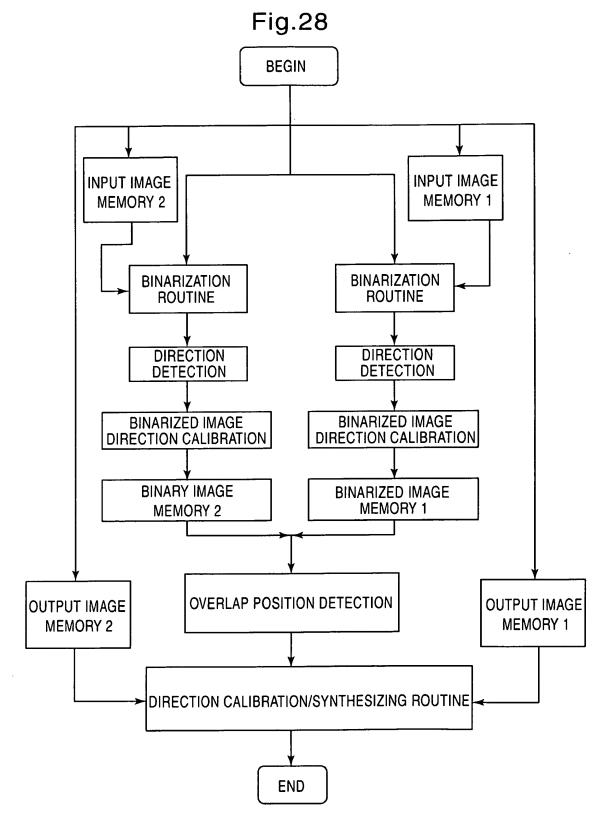
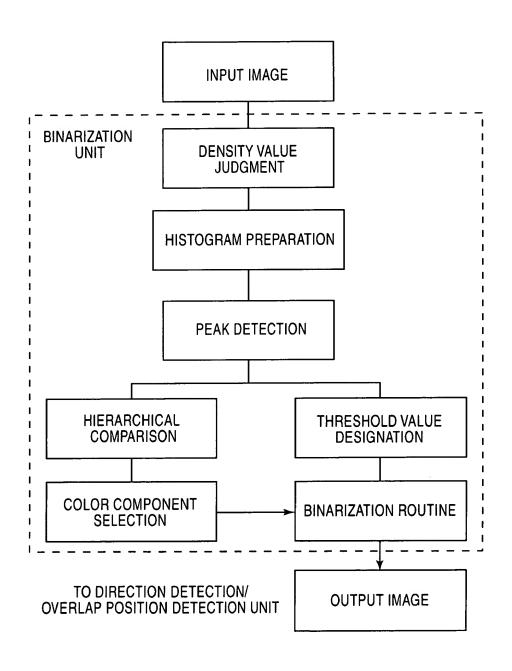




Fig.29



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